

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
REFINING AND EXPLORATION BY IOC AND ONGC
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Government have directed the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to stick to their core competence of refining and exploration and not to diversify into unrelated areas;
- (b): if so, whether his Ministry feel that in the current context of boosting domestic crude output ONGC should concentrate on exploration and production job; and
- (c): if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop the ONGC and OIC diversifying into the unrelated areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): Exploration and production of hydrocarbons continues to be Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's core Operational areas. The alliance between IOC and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and diversification in such areas would help to pool the vast resources of both the companies to meet the increased demand of oil and to enhance long term national energy security, better equip the two companies to face the emerging competition in the future deregulated scenario in the oil sector.